

THE BEGINNING OF THE FORMATION OF MAKING *TAKFEER* WITHOUT EVIDENCE & ITS CAUSES IN THE *UMMAH*

Part A

By Shaykh
Ibraheem bin 'Amir ar-Ruhaylee

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'*at-Takfeer* & its Principles'

Translated by
Abbas Abu Yahya

The beginnings of making *Takfeer* without evidence goes back to a very early time in the history of this *Ummah*; such that the scholars mention that making *Takfeer* due to sins was the first *Bida'* which appeared in this *Ummah*.

Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah said: 'So this is why it is obligatory to be wary of making *Takfeer* of the Muslims due to their sins and mistakes; indeed it was the first *Bida'* which appeared in Islaam. So its people made *Takfeer* of the Muslims and they made it permissible to take their blood and wealth.' [1]

The first people, who began *Takfeer* unlawfully, were the Khawarij. There were a lot of them in the army of 'Alee -*radiAllaah anhu* - in the battle of Siffeen and when 'Alee and Muwayeeyah -*radiAllaah anhum* - agreed upon arbitration between them, which took place in the month of Ramadan in the 37th year after the *Hijra*, the Khawarij rejected it. They exaggerated in their condemnation of 'Alee and they said to him: 'You had men judge in the matter of the Book of Allaah. There is no *Hukm* (rule) except for Allaah,' and then they openly declared *Takfeer* of him. [2]

Abul -Hasan al-Ashaaree said: 'The Khawarij are in consensus on declaring 'Alee ibn Abee Taalib -*radiAllaah anhu* - to be a *kafir* (disbeliever) because he had men judge in an issue. They differ as to whether his *kufr* (disbelief) is *shirk* or

1 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' 13/31, refer to 'Sharh al-Asfahani' p.225

2 Refer to 'al-Farq bayn al-Firaq' by al-Baghdadi p.74-76, 'al-Bidayya wa Nihayah' by Ibn Katheer 10/577 & 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' by Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah 13/208

not. They are in agreement that every major sin is *kufr*, except for the an-Najdaat (a group of the Khawarij) since they do not say this statement.' [3]

Some of the scholars mention in their research and about sects the consensus of the khawarij in making *Takfeer* of: 'Alee, Uthmaan, those who took part in the battle of al-Jaml, those who arbitrated, those who agreed to the arbitration, those who viewed that the arbitrators were correct, or that one of the groups were correct and rebelling against the oppressive leader.' [4]

Then after 'Alee -*radiAllaah anhu* - returned from the battle of Siffeen, the Khawarij secluded themselves to a place called Huroora, which is why they were called Hurooreeyah. There were 12,000 of them. 'Alee -*radiAllaah anhu* - sent Ibn Abbas -*radiAllaah anhu* - to them and he debated with them. Half of them came back and the rest of them committed aggression by finding fault with the people and made their blood lawful.

The Khawarij killed Abdullaah bin Khubbab bin al-Arrat, then entered his house, killed his son and his slave girl-who was the mother of his son- and then gathered their army in Nahrawaan. So, 'Alee -*radiAllaah anhu* - went towards them with 4,000 of his Companions. When he was close by them he sent a messenger to them saying: "give up the killers of Abdullaah bin Khubbab", they sent a messenger back saying: we all killed him.

'Alee -*radiAllaah anhu* - fought them and killed all of them except nine of them who survived while only seven from amongst the Companions of 'Alee were killed, and it has been said that nine of them were killed. [5]

'Alee began walking between those killed from among the Khawarij saying: 'How wretched you are, indeed the one who has deceived you has harmed you.' his companions asked: 'O *Ameer-ul-Mumineen* who has deceived them?'

He answered: 'Shaytaan! The human self is inclined to evil, deceived by false desires and he beautified sins for them. It was prophesized that they will appear.' [6]

Indeed the Prophet - *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* – informed his Companions about the Khawarij, that they would rebel and that he desired to fight them. In the Saheeh of Bukhari and Muslim from the hadeeth of 'Alee -*radiAllaah anhu* - that he said: 'I heard the Messenger of Allaah - *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* – saying:

3 'Makaalat al-Islaameeyen' 1/167

4 Refer to 'al-Farq bayn al-Firaq' by al-Baghdadi p.73, 'at-Tabseer fi Deen' by as-Safreeni p.45

5 Refer to 'al-Farq bayn al-Firaq' by al-Baghdadi p.75-78, 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' by Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah 13/208

6 'al-Bidayya w Nihayyah' by Ibn Katheer 10/588

'During the last days there will appear some young foolish people who will say the best words but their faith will not go beyond their throats and they will go out from (leave) their religion as an arrow goes out of game. So, wherever you find them, kill them, for whoever kills them shall have reward on the Day of Resurrection' [7]

There are many Ahadeeth which condemn the Khawarij in many different ways:

Al-Khalaal narrates on the authority of Imaam Ahmad -May Allaah have mercy upon him- that he said: 'The Khawarij are an evil people, I do not know of a people on the earth more evil than them. The hadeeth about them are authentic on the authority of the Prophet - *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* – from ten different angles.' [8]

Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah -May Allaah have mercy upon him- comments on this saying: 'Muslim narrates them in his book as-Saheeh and Bukhari narrates some of them.' [9]

So, the Khawarij were the first ones who became known for unlawfully making *Takfeer* of the people of Islaam due to sins. However, this was not limited to just them, rather the Raawafidah participated in this *Takfeer* - and in other aspects of their beliefs - the Raawafidah are more evil than the Khawarij since the Raawafidah made *Takfeer* of the best of the *Ummah* - the Companions of the Prophet - *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* – and they believed that the Companions apostated because they left the rule of 'Alee -*radiAllaahu anhu* - as they claim.

What is mentioned in the book 'al-Kaafi', which is the most authentic of their books and trustworthy according to them, on the authority of Abu Jafar - as they claim - that he said: 'The people became apostates after the Prophet - *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* - except three people.'

I asked: 'And who are those three people?'

He said: 'al-Miqdad ibn al-Aswaad, Abu Dharr al-Ghafar and Salman al-Farsi.' [10]

7 Saheeh al-Bukhari & 'Fath'12/283 (Hadeeth no.6930) & Muslim 2/746 (Hadeeth no.1066)

8 'As-Sunnah' by Khlaal 1/145

9 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' 3/279, refer to the hadeeth in Saheeh al-Bukhari & 'Fath'12/282,283,390 & Saheeh Muslim 2/740-750

10 'Rowdah min al-Kaafi'8/245-246

Al-Mufeed - one of their senior scholars - mentions the consensus of the Raawafidah in making *Takfeer* of the Companions: 'The Imaameeyah, Zaydeeyah and the Khawarij believe that the apostates and the unjust from the people of Basara and Shaam are all *Kuffar* (disbelievers), misguided and accursed and due to that they are in the Hell-Fire eternally.' [11]

The Raawafidah are the severest of the *Ahl-ul-Bida'* in making *Takfeer*. They make *Takfeer* of everyone who opposes them. Therefore they make *Takfeer* generally of the *Ummah*, of the Companions and *Tabi'een* and all of the scholars of the *Deen* and they do not refrain from it at all. This is well known about them, by those who know their '*Aqeedah* and have come across their books.

Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah -May Allaah have mercy upon him- says: 'The Raawafidah made *Takfeer* of Abu Bakr, Umar, 'Uthmaan, of the general *Muhaajireen* and *Ansar*, and those who followed them in goodness, those whom Allaah was pleased with and they with Him. The Raawafidah made *Takfeer* of the majority of the *Ummah* of Muhammad from those who preceded and those who came later.

They made *Takfeer* of everyone who believed that Abu Bakr, Umar, the *Muhaajireen* and *Ansar* were righteous or is pleased with them just like Allaah is pleased with them, or the one who seeks forgiveness for them just like Allaah commands to seek forgiveness for them. So they make *Takfeer* of the distinguished ones of this *Ummah*, like: Sa'eed bin al-Mussayib, Abu Muslim al-Kholaani, Awais al-Qarni, 'Ata bin Abu Ribah, Ibraheem an-Nakhaee and the likes of Maalik, Awzaee, Abu Hanifa, Hamad bin Zaid, Hamad bin Salma, ath-Thawri, ash-Shafiee, Ahmad bin Hanbal, Fudail bin 'Ayaad, Sulayman ad-Daraani, Maroof al-Karkhee, al-Junaid bin Muhaamad, Sahl bin Abdullaah at-Tustaree, and others as well....

The Raawafidah view that the disbelief of the Companions was more severe than the disbelief of the Jews and Christians, because their disbelief is from the root, and these others were apostates. The disbelief of apostasy is more severe as is known by consensus, even more severe than original disbelief.' [12]

Then the contagious sickness of performing *Takfeer* without evidence transferred from the Khawarij and Raawafidah to the Qadariyyah al-Muatazilah. Their *Bida'* appeared in the issue of *al-Qadr* during the last

11 'Awail al-Maqaalat' p.45

12 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' 28/477-478

period of the Companions. The Companions freed themselves from them and their *Bida'*. [13]

The reason for this was because the people began discussing the ruling about the one who commits a major sin, this was after what the Khawarij innovated the methodology of making *Takfeer* due to sins. The Qadariyyah spoke about this and they were in agreement with the Khawarij in their ruling about those who sin although they differed in its label.

Regarding this Shaykh ul- Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah -May Allaah have mercy upon him- said: 'Then during the last period of the Companions the innovation of the Qadariyyah appeared. The principle of their *Bida'* was due to the weakness of their intellects about understanding the need for having *Emaan* in the *Qadr* of Allaah and *Emaan* in the commands of Allaah and His prohibitions....and the Khawarij spoke about making *Takfeer* of the sinners from among the people who face the *Qiblah* when they said: 'Indeed they are *Kuffar* who will be in the Hell-fire eternally.' The people delved into this issue, and the Qadariyyah delved into this after the death of al-Hasan al-Basari.

'Amroo bin Ubayd and his companions said: 'They are neither Muslims nor are they *kuffar*, rather they are in a place between two places and they are eternally in the Hell-fire. So they were in agreement with the Khawarij that those people are eternally in Hell-fire and that they have nothing whatsoever of Islaam and *Emaan*, although they did not call them *Kuffar*.' [14]

In this way, the sickness of *Takfeer* without clear evidence or *Sharia'* documentation, began deteriorating from one sect of *Ahl-ul-Bida'* to another until it became their distinguishing characteristic and a clear sign of the general sects of the people of *Bida'*.

Abdul-Qahir al-Baghdadi said: 'There is no sect from the opposing sects, except that they make *Takfeer*, one of another, and they free themselves, from one another, like the Khawarij, Rawaafidah and Qadariyyah, so much so that they gathered together in a meeting and they left making *Takfeer* of one another.' [15]

Shaykh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah said:

'Many of *Ahl-ul-Bida'* like the Khawarij, Raawafidah, Qadariyyah, Jahmiyyah and Mumathila came to hold a belief which was misguided but they viewed

13 Refer to 'As-Sunnah' by Abdullaah bin Ahmad 2/420, 'ash-Sharia' by al-Ajurri 2/851, 'Sharh asool 'Itqaad ahl-ul-Sunnah' by al-Laalkaiee 2/588

14 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' 13/36-37

15 'al-Farq bayn al-Firaq' p.361

it as the truth and they regarded those who opposed them in this as *Kuffar*.' [16]

He also says:

'From the affairs of *Ahl-ul-Bida'* is that they innovate sayings. They make these sayings an obligation in the religion, rather they make it a part of *Emaan* which is mandatory to have. They make *Takfeer* of those who oppose them and they make their blood lawful, just as the Khawarij, Jahmiyyah, Raawafidah and Mutazilah and other than them did.

Ahl-ul-Sunnah do not innovate sayings, nor do they make *Takfeer* of those who make mistakes after making *Ijtihad*, even if they oppose them and make Takfeer of the Ahl-ul-Sunnah, making their blood lawful. Just like the Companions did not make *Takfeer* of the Khawarij even though they made *Takfeer* of Uthman and 'Alee and those who supported them and even though they made the blood of the Muslims lawful.' [17]

Ibn Abul-Izz al-Hanafī -May Allaah have mercy upon him- said: 'From the shameful aspects of the *ahl -ul-Bida'* is their making *Takfeer* of each other. And from the praiseworthy aspects of the people of knowledge is that they say so and so made a mistake and they don't make *Takfeer*.' [18]

All Praise belongs to Allaah, may His peace
and blessings be upon our final
Prophet Muhammad, his
family, his companions
and all those who
follow his
guidance.

16 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' 12/466-467

17 'Minhaaj as-Sunnah' 5/95, refer to some important sayings of Shaykh ul-Islaam in this issue in 'Majmoo al-Fatawa' 19/73,75, & 'Minhaaj as-Sunnah' 5/158, 239-240, & 'Radd ala al-Bakri' 2/487-490

18 'Sharh at-Tahawi' p.439